

FAITH IN WOMEN INSPIRED BY MOTHER BROWNING'S UNDOING IN MARITAL LIFE

First Marriage Collapse Failed to Disillusion Him

In today's installment of his own life story, Mr. Browning gives details of his early life and tells where he acquired the tenderness for women which has marked his later career. In the recital of his story, given exclusively to The GRAPHIC and associated newspapers, Mr. Browning discusses frankly his adoptions, his two unfortunate marriages, and tells how he was able to amass a huge fortune in business. You've read a lot about Edward West Browning if you've followed the newspapers, but here's what one of the most extraordinary men of the day thinks about himself.



My Own Story of My Life and Loves by Edward West Browning As told to H. Sutherland Denlinger

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CHAPTER TWO

I was born October 16, 1874, in the house at 54 West 51st St. which my father, Edward Franklin Browning, one of the members of the clothing firm of William Browning & Co. and the firm of Browning, King & Co., had purchased shortly after his marriage to Miss Lucy Albertina Richardson, daughter of the Rev. Albert G. Richardson of Cincinnati.

Just as I have always (I say it proudly!) been a resident of New York city, so my father was born on Manhattan Island in 1837, when the Gouverneur Street mansion of his father, John Hazard Browning, was one of the town's show places.

I say that I have been always a resident of New York and this is almost literally true, for I have never left Gotham except on business trips or vacations—and the vacations, I might add, have been few and far between.

My father, a kind but strict man of strong religious principles, did not believe in humoring boys, and reserved—at least while I was young—all his latent tenderness for my sister Lucy.

Dates from 1640

Aside from business, his two hobbies were church work and genealogy, and it was he who compiled and published the "Genealogy of the Brownings in America," which traced the history of the family, the first Scots to settle in this country, from the landing of the pioneer Browning in 1640 down to the birth of his own children.

This preoccupation of my father was perhaps fortunate, as it threw me back for adult companionship upon my mother, who, I say it reverently, was undoubtedly one of the finest women with which God ever blessed this sorry earth.

I am happy to be able to say that I believe myself to have been her favorite child, and I am reconciled to many of my later misfortunes by the thought that I was in my youth able to do much to make life easier for her.

Mother was never very strong and in later life she became a confirmed invalid, but as different from the complaining, unhappy invalid who makes all about her miserable as you can imagine.

Kindly Smiles

Mother always had a smile for us and a kind word. She took the greatest interest in our childish aims and aspirations, and she ever strove, without sanctimoniousness, to make us see the necessity of doing the right as it was given us to see the right.

At a quite early age I began to give evidence of that inventive

faculty which, applied later to business, has served me in such good stead.

My inventions usually were intended to make life more pleasant for mother, and how utterly glad I was when one of them worked successfully!

Thus, during the first hot months in our city home, when it was still too early to leave for the country, I perfected what must have been one of the first cooling systems and installed it in her room. She expressed great delight, but whether it was caused by actual pleasure in the relief the system afforded her or in the thought that I had done it for her I do not know.

I also constructed for her an invalid's chair in which, aided by the portly butler, I used to carry her to her carriage on those days when she felt strong enough to take the air.

Left Alone

Mother died when I was 29 and already with my feet on the first stepping stones of my business career.

To the last we remained fast friends, and whenever possible I



I have told my story to The GRAPHIC because I think that in that manner I may present my plea to this court most effectively, and with a confidence of accuracy that I should not have felt had I permitted these articles to appear in one of the many journals which from time to time have deliberately misquoted me, and even invented interviews.

Parents' Teachings Guided Browning's Career



PRECEPTS LEARNED in earliest boyhood are responsible for both the business success and the marital tragedies of Edward West Browning. "Stand on your own feet," his grandfather, Edward Franklin Browning (above at left), preached to him by word and example. "Be tender to women," pleaded his invalid mother, Lucy Richardson Browning (at right), whom Edward West as a child (shown in inset) worshiped as a saint.

discussed with her the problems which came up from time to time in my life in the outside world.

It was she who taught me always to treat women tenderly, as those who go down into the Valley of Death itself to give us the gift of life.

It was a lesson learned as much from the beauty of her character as from her spoken word, and the memory of her has enabled me to retain my faith despite contact with others of her sex who, alas, are certainly not as she was.

Dear mother! I am glad she knows nothing of these last ten years, with their heartbreak and their notoriety! And yet there is the comforting thought that if she had, she would have understood. She knew too well the boy she had trained in the basic precepts of morality and right living to believe him capable of the ghastly things which liars and irresponsible publicity seekers have charged against him.

And she would realize, bless her

Man Shoots Wife and Self When He Can't Find Work

Despondent over his failure to obtain work, John Poloch, 49, a paperhanger and laborer, critically shot his wife, Martha, 42, and then himself, the police report. The couple are in the Greenpoint Hospital and little hope is held for their recovery.

The shooting took place at 173 Russell St., Brooklyn, where Poloch and his family have been living since coming to New York two weeks ago from Baltimore, Md. Charles, 18, the oldest of the five Poloch children, told the police that he, his two brothers and two sisters and their mother had retired early. His father, he said, did not go to bed, but sat brooding over his failure to find employment.

Shortly before midnight, Charles said, he was awakened by two gunshots. He ran to his parents' room and found his father lying on the floor with a bullet wound in his right temple. Blood was seeping through the bed clothes, and he found his mother unconscious, a wound in her left breast.

I was 40 years old and already eminently successful when I married my first wife, an act which, as I look back upon it, was destined

(Continued on Page 13)

WHY I AM WRITING THE STORY OF MY LIFE

These are the reasons which impelled me to give the story of my life to the New York Evening GRAPHIC:—

To kill forever the "Woof, Woof, Bunny Browning" myth; to restore the dignity of one of the oldest names in the United States; to confound falsehood; to exalt the truth; to satisfy my friends, who winced that I should suffer silently under the lash of bitter vituperation and baseless accusations; to obviate as far as possible the chance that other men of eminence may be made victims of misrepresentation by defeating the attempt of conscienceless persons to blacken my character—the same purpose which actuates me in my pending litigation.

This story told to readers of The GRAPHIC is, in its essence, a brief which I submit in my own defense before the court of public opinion; a court which, I firmly believe, will find me guiltless of any wrong.

EDWARD WEST BROWNING.

Clearing House

(Official figures)

Exchanges — \$1,251,000,000
Balances — 110,000,000
Credit balance 98,000,000

THE WEATHER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1926.



U. S. WEATHER FORECAST

LOCAL: Rain this afternoon and tonight; Wednesday clearing and much colder; southeast gales, shifting to westerly, tonight.

Hour.	Temp.	Weather.	Barom.	Wind.
Midnight...	61	Cloudy	29.90	SE. 36
2 a. m. ...	61	Cloudy	29.83	SE. 54
4 a. m. ...	61	Cloudy	29.85	S. 48
6 a. m. ...	60	Cloudy	29.88	S. 56
8 a. m. ...	61	Cloudy	29.64	S. 50
10 a. m. ...	61	Cloudy	29.56	S. 51